# THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

**Thursday, 26th March 1953.**

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Before we commence our work, I wish to congratulate the Andhra Members, on their success in their efforts to get an Andhra State. I wish them all success. One hundred and forty-one Members of this Assembly will secede and form the legislature of the new State. Of these 141 Members, we have one Member who is known as the Father of this House and he is Mr. Koti Reddi. Mr. Shanmugam and Mr. Pillalamarri Venkateswarlu were with us in the last Assembly also.

" This will be the last session. But we are going to have another meeting probably next month, to discuss the proposals about the Andhra State."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH :—" Because the Andhra State is going to be formed, we are going to speak in English from to-day onwards." (Cheers.)

### I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" In the matter of questions and answers, it looks as though this Assembly is not sovereign and that the Ministry alone is sovereign. The Constitution says that this country is a people's sovereign republic."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has not raised any point of order or any such thing. What is it that he wants to know? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Is it a half-hour debate on the statement made by the Hon. Speaker? "

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" I rise on a point of order to raise the following points :—

(1) The Ministry has no right to say that it will not answer short notice questions.

(2) The Ministry has no right to delay answers to questions beyond a reasonable limit.

(3) The Ministry has no right to say that it will not answer particular questions in the public interest.

" This Assembly is sovereign and the Cabinet is responsible to us. It is not as though the Cabinet is the overall sovereign body. Any rules which have been made previously regarding the business of this Assembly must be within the limits laid down by the Constitution. The Constitution guarantees to us the right to get